

# RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

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VOL. XXV

APRIL, 1932

No. 2

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WASHINGTON CAVALRY

*See page 33*

Issued Quarterly

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68 WATERMAN STREET, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

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RHODE  
HISTORICAL



ISLAND  
SOCIETY

## COLLECTIONS

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WILLIAM DAVIS MILLER, *President* GILBERT A. HARRINGTON, *Treasurer*  
HOWARD W. PRESTON, *Secretary* HOWARD M. CHAPIN, *Librarian*

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The Society assumes no responsibility for the statements or the opinions of contributors.

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### The Washington Cavalry

The illustration upon the cover of this number of the COLLECTIONS is reproduced from a water color sketch originally belonging to the family of Cyrus French, the hatter of Little Rest. The subscription states that it represents "A Model of the Washington Cavalry." The colors of the original are as follows: hat, black; coat, red with brown<sup>1</sup> facings, white buttons (probably metal); waistcoat, buff; breeches, fawn; boots, black. The saddle cloth would appear to be dark olive with white strips on the border.

The Washington Cavalry was chartered by the Assembly in the June session of 1792. The incorporators were: John Gardiner, Rowland Brown, Henry Potter, Samuel Helme, Samuel E. Gardiner, Robert Potter, Jr., Christy

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<sup>1</sup>It is believed that red coat was later replaced with one of blue with buff facings but this cannot at present be verified.



Potter, John Segar, Adam Helme, Jonathan Hazard, Jr., John Potter, Jr., Peter B. Hazard, Jeremiah N. Sands, Griffin Hazard, Jeremiah N. Potter, Francis Hazard, Robert G. Sands, Rowland W. Hazard, William Perry, Nicholas Hazard, Nathaniel Mumford, Thomas H. Hazard, John Gardiner, Jr., and Gideon Hazard.

It was enacted that the rank and file, exclusive of officers, should not exceed sixty-five and that "the said Company shall, at their own Expense, equip themselves with suitable Cloathing, Arms and other Accoutrements . . ."

The first officers were: John Gardiner, captain; Rowland Brown, first lieutenant; Henry Potter, second lieutenant and Samuel E. Gardiner, cornet.

The Washington Cavalry continued its existence until some time during the year 1841 when it was evidently disbanded, there being no further records regarding it after that date.

W. D. M.

## More About Queen's Fort

(Continued from Vol. XXIV, p. 141)

The following items are printed from photostat copies in the Society's library.

Sidney S. Rider, in letter to Hazard Stevens, November, 1898, said:

"In the matter of the Queen's Fort, or Wilkie's Fort, of which you ask, I have made some investigations, and there are but few references to it in the early writings and never under either of these names. The Queen's Bed Chamber is some what difficult of access some agility is required both to get in and get out again. It is about 7 feet in height and will hold about 20 men.

"The Indian 'Engineer,' who designed the 'Fort' was the same one who planned the defences of the Island on which was the Fort in the Great Swamp Fight"

James N. Arnold, in *Pen Pictures of Narragansett History*, said:

"The Queen's Bed Chamber consists of a square opening in a solid rock, and partly covered with a thin stone. Here in this rock-bound scene lived the widowed Queen, Magnus. Her dominions stretched away to the southward along the banks of a river that still bears her title Queen. Over a tract of several thousand acres this woman held an undisputed sway. This fact is interesting from its proving that the Narragansett Indians did look after the welfare of their women, and provided means of support for them after their hunter had been taken from them."

James N. Arnold, in letter to Hazard Stevens, December 2, 1898, said:

"The name (Wilkie Fort) came from the first English owner of the land purchasing from the Committee, this being a part of the vacant lands. (55 Potter)

"Along the Queen's River from its source to its union with the Usquepaug was set aside for the use and support of the squaw sachem, and a guard of 24 warriors was detailed for this purpose, to guard and protect her. Her name was Magnus. She was the widow of Meikie, the son and heir of Canonicus, who was head of the nation. Magnus' death under the circumstances was tragic. She was taken prisoner by the Connecticut troops in Phillip's war, carried to Connecticut and put to death.

"The source of the Queen's River is a spring on the south side of this cluster of stones.

"You may judge how much of a tract her hunters rambled over when you take the distance from here to Usquepaug.

"You observed on the west side of these rocks there is a patch of sand. It was at this spot that the corn was taken Nov. 27, 1675 (See Potter).

"Starting from the west side you crossed some rocks and there came a break and then the great cluster. The chamber is well towards the west part of this last clump of stones.

"There is a large flat stone that covers the entire chamber and fits very close except on the south side which gives an opening of about two feet in height and the width of the chamber in length. The chamber itself is about 10 feet square and about six feet in the clear.

"I could reach the ceiling with my hands when I was in it. The room is very square and well proportioned. I am really sorry you did not find it but if one is not very careful he is apt to go by it.

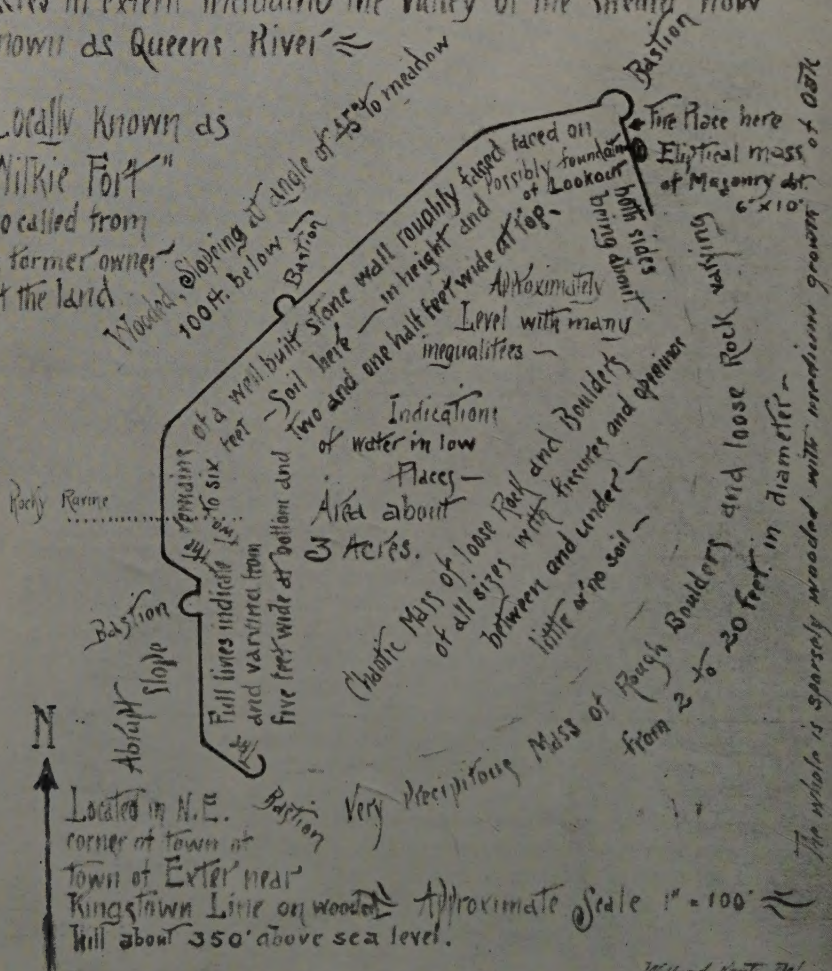
"There is lots of tradition about the sheep stealers that one time made this their rendezvous and also plenty of stories about the insane hermit Reynolds all of which would write up quite a respectable magazine article. Perhaps some time I might do this."



# Sketch of present condition of Queen's Fort Nov. 10. 1896.

Once the stronghold of the Widowed Queen Margnus who according to tradition here had her residence and held undisputed sway over a tract comprising many thousand acres in extent including the valley of the stream now known as Queens River.

Locally known as  
"Wilkie Fort"  
so called from  
a former owner  
of the land.



## Stony Fort

The document containing a reference to Stony Fort, that was printed in *R. I. Hist. Soc. Coll.*, vol. III, p. 407, and mentioned in vol. XXIV, p. 149, is recorded in *R. I. Land Evidences*, vol. II, p. 200.

## New Publications of Rhode Island Interest

*Potowomut*, an illustrated historical pamphlet of 26 pages by Anna M. M. Lawrence.

*Some Further Papers Relating to King Philip's War*, a pamphlet of 14 pages issued by the Society of Colonial Wars in Rhode Island, 1931, contains reprints of three documents in the Rhode Island Historical Society Library.

*Earthquake Damage and Earthquake Insurance*, by John R. Freeman, which contains an account of the earthquakes that have occurred in Rhode Island.

*In Praise of Antiquities*, an address by Norman M. Isham, published by the Walpole Society.

A genealogy of the de Chappotin family of Rhode Island appears in the *Selden Ancestry* (pages 270-291) which was published at Oil City, Penna., in 1931.

*The New England Quarterly* for January, 1932, contains an article on "Rhode Island's First Court of Admiralty" by Marguerite Appleton, and on "Student Interest at Brown 1780-1790," based on the contemporary letters of Brown students.

*The New England Hist. and Gen. Reg.* for January, 1932, contains an article on the Littlefield Family of Block Island by G. Andrews Moriarty, Jr.

*George Washington and Rhode Island*, by John Williams Haley, is an illustrated pamphlet of 40 pages, published by the State of Rhode Island.



The article by Richard Holden Tingley in *The Sportsman* for January 1932, entitled *Great Rains of Little Fishes* refers to the rain of fish at Providence in 1900 which was described at length in the *Providence Journal* of May 16, 1900.

The second volume of the *Sullivan Papers*, 1778-1779, which is volume 14 of the *New Hampshire Historical Society Collections*, contains much of Rhode Island interest, as these papers and letters relate to the period that General Sullivan spent in Rhode Island. Indeed, this volume might well be considered a source book on one phase of Rhode Island's part in the American Revolution.

*The Sandwich Papers*, just published as volume 69 of the *Publications of Navy Records Society*, London, 1932, contains several references to Providence, Newport, Rhode Island, and the Gaspee affair. The following item on page 173 is interesting:

"You will please observe this bay runs 30 miles up into the country to a town called Providence, through which place all the provisions came for the supply of the rebel army at Boston; and it being navigable for men-of-war sloops and even frigates all the way up to Providence, we might (had we possession of it) cut off the supplies from the rebel army at Boston, and from Connecticut it would be extremely difficult in the winter for them to be supplied.

"The town of Providence might easily be kept possession of from its situation, having a river on the left and a hill on the right which runs along the back of the town. Providence is near a mile long, having but one street along the river side, and lays nearly north and south. At the south end of the town, there is a river runs east and joins to Providence River, which makes a high point up to which it is always navigable along the town and from Newport and Rhode Island, from whence our troops could easily be supplied with provisions."

*Washington's Visits to Rhode Island*, by Howard W. Preston, enlarged and reprinted from the *Rhode Island Historical Society's Collections*, October, 1926, is an illustrated pamphlet of 28 pages published as number 5 of the Historical Publications of the Rhode Island State Bureau of Information.



## Notes

The following persons have been elected to membership in the Society:

Mr. W. Easton Louttit, Jr.	Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin
Prof. William T. Hastings	Mr. William E. Brigham
Mr. Dexter L. Lewis	Mrs. William E. Brigham
Mr. Clarence E. Sherman	Mrs. Richard Rathbone Graham
Mrs. John W. Holton	Mr. Kenneth D. MacColl
Mr. Richard LeB. Bowen	Mr. Howard L. Anthony
Mrs. Edwin A. Cady	Miss Mary A. Jack
John E. Donley, M.D.	Miss Eleanor B. Green
Mrs. Charles C. Stover	Mr. William C. Johnson
Mr. T. Robley Louttit	Mr. Emilio N. Cappelli
Mrs. Mabel B. Comstock	Mr. Edmund H. Parsons
Mr. Charles Owen Ethier	Mrs. S. H. Cabot

The need for a new building for the Society is as urgent now as it was last year, and it is hoped that some public-spirited Rhode Islander will donate or bequeath the funds necessary for a new building or for the adequate enlargement of our present building.

Be it knowne unto all people by these presents That I Potacom  
 alias Gilos formerly inhabitant at Mashapaugo and owner of three Indian  
 fields called Mashapaugo fields did in the yeare one thousand six hundred  
 and fifty about the middle of the month Called May in the above said  
 for good Consideration then in hand Received of Richard Waterman of the  
 Towne of Providence in the Colonie of Road Island and Providence pla  
 ceations in New England the Receipt of which I doo acknowledge and doo  
 hereby acquit and discharge him his heirs Executors and assigns of the  
 Same. Did then sell make over Confirme unto the said Richard  
 Waterman one of the three Indian fields the other two I having still  
 before that time unto the aforesaid Richard Waterman and Received full  
 Satisfaction for them: this said field is bounded on the western part  
 with the meadow of the said Richard Waterman which both upon a  
 brooke that Issues out of the southern End of the Great pond Called  
 Mashapaugo which End of the said pond is about two English miles south  
 westerly from the said Towne of Providence: on the Southern part  
 with a small pond: bounded on the part that is northerly with the  
 Southern part of the aforesaid Great pond Called Mashapaugo: and on  
 the Eastern part the said tract doth Extend as far as the Indians have  
 formerly planted all which aforesaid tract of land with all my right  
 Interest and title and Claims thereto in forme and manner according unto the  
 Boundes prescribed with all the appurtenances Benefits and Commodities  
 thereof and thereto belonging: I say for full Satisfaction in hand Received  
 about the middle of May in the yeare one thousand six hundred and fifty  
 I did truly sell and make over and passe away both from my selfe  
 and from my heirs unto Richard Waterman aforesaid both for him selfe  
 and his heirs to have and to hold as his or either of thiers true property  
 and Lawfull Right and Inheritance for Ever and the said Richard  
 Waterman hath from the time aforesaid Stood Lawfully possessed  
 with the said lands and doeth stand truly and Lawfully seized and possessed  
 with the said lands and every part and parcel thereof also I the said  
 Potacom doe hereby bind my selfe my heirs and assigns at all times to  
 keepe harmless the said Richard Waterman his heirs and assigns from  
 from any person Claiming or to Claim by vertue of any other bargain or sale  
 Imbracement or mortgage Done or Comitted at any time to one the  
 said Potacom alias Gilos in witness whereof: unto all and singular the  
 aforesaid premises I doo hereunto set my hand and Seal this fourth  
 twentieth Day of february in the yeare one thousand six hundred and  
 Signed Sealed and Delivered in the  
 presence of us the marks of Potacom and Gilos  
 John first Stephen Dexter

1667-1668

An Indian Deed, purporting to convey  
 land sold to the grantee in May 1668

"Potacom" to Richard Waterman

never recorded - 1667-1668

An Unrecorded Indian Deed of 1667.

From original manuscript owned by Mrs. R. S. Richmond.

## Extracts from the Rhode Island Gazette

Since the publication in the COLLECTIONS of October, 1923 (page 103), of the items of local interest that appeared in the *Rhode Island Gazette* of 1732, four more issues of the *Gazette* have been located. These copies were mentioned by Hammett in his *Bibliography of Newport* (1887), but were not located by subsequent bibliographers. Through the courtesy of their present owner, Mr. Edward A. Sherman of Newport, we are able to print the items of local interest in these issues.

### *Rhode Island Items*

NEWPORT JAN. 11, 1733

On the 30th past dy'd Abraham Borden Esq; General Treasurer of this Colony, after a few Days Illness.

On Friday last was drawn the Lottery set forth by Mr. Isaac Anthony. The House and Land fell to Mr. Josias Lendon, Jun. and three or four more considerable Prizes to others of this Place.

*Custom House Newport.* Entered Inwards.

Coatts from Boneary. *Outward Bound*, None. *Cleared Out*, Coggeshall and Norton for Suranam, and Ladd for Barbadoes.

### ADVERTISEMENT

No. 13 of this Paper concludes a Quarter. Those who have taken it from the Beginning, are desir'd to pay their Money to John Franklin of Boston, or James Franklin of Newport; the Continuance of it depending on punctual Quarterly Payments, or a greater Number of Subscribers.

N. B. A good Correspondence is settled for supplying this Paper with Foreign and Domestick Affairs, as well as



Speculations, and may be better carryed on than hitherto it has been if a farther Encouragement is given.

## NEWPORT JAN. 25

*Custom House Newport.* Entered Inwards.

Wickham from St. Christophers, and Wilkinson from Boneary. *Outwad Bound.* Coatts for Leward-Islands. *Cleared out.* Brinn for Affrica, Wickham for St. Christophers, and Beaucham for Leward Islands.

## ADVERTISEMENTS

To be sold by Mrs. Nearegrass, at her Shop in Newport, a valuable Parcel of Books, consisting of Divinity, History, Law, Physick, Plays, &c. most of them new, and well board.

N. B. They will be sold very cheap, the said Nearegrass designating to leave off the Business of Book-selling.

(Advertisements are repeated from the issues of Dec. 21 and Jan. 11.)

## NEWPORT FEB. 22

We hear from Narraganset, That a Son of Mr. Green (whose House was burnt at Warwick, as mention'd in one of our late Papers) had the Misfortune to Lose lately by Fire his House, Shop and Corn Crib. 'Tis said nothing was sav'd but part of the Corn in the Crib. And, That a Bridge, a Mill, and a Forge were last Week broke down and carry'd away by the Ice coming down Pautucket River.

The issues of February 22 and March 1 are torn so that only part of the advertisements remain.

They read:

### ADVERTISEMENT S.

All Persons who have given Notes-r- - -  
port, for his Lottery Tickets, - - -

This is to give Notice that - - -  
George Dunbar Esq; is put - - -  
which Time it is not doubted - - -

### NEWPORT MARCH 1

We hear above 50 Vessels were blown off the Coast of New England the last Winter, and arrived in the West Indies. Capt. Elliot, who was blown off to Antigua in his Passage from this Place to Boston, is arrived at Martha's Vineyard. A Sloop blown off, ——— Sears Master, is arriv'd here.

*Custom House Newport.* Entered Inwards.

Vencent from Virginia, Dyre and Sears from Eustaria, Gullin from Hispaniola, and Waters from Boston. *Outward Bound*, Briggs for Barbados. *Cleared Out*, Bell for Barbados, Linsey for Leward Islands, and Frame for Antigua.

### ADVERTISEMENT S.

THIS is to give Notice to all Persons whom it may concern, That the Lottery set forth by *John Dickenson* of *Warwick*, is put off to the *26th* of *April* next, and then to be drawn, or sooner, if full, at Capt. *Gorton's* in *Warwick*, in the Colony of *Rhode Island*; which Town is almost twenty Miles nearer to *Boston* than *Newport* is, and just by said *Dickenson's* Shop of Goods, which will be very

handy for those who draw Prizes of *English* Goods which they do nor like, to return them and have them changed for any other Sort of *English* Goods which suit them better.

This is likewise to give ---  
Gentlemen that have ---  
of the abovesaid, Le ---  
a mind to venture ---  
as much entitle ---  
---- against ---  
--- of *Warw* ---  
- drawn in N ---  
ting off the g ---  
Country is the ---  
there drawn.

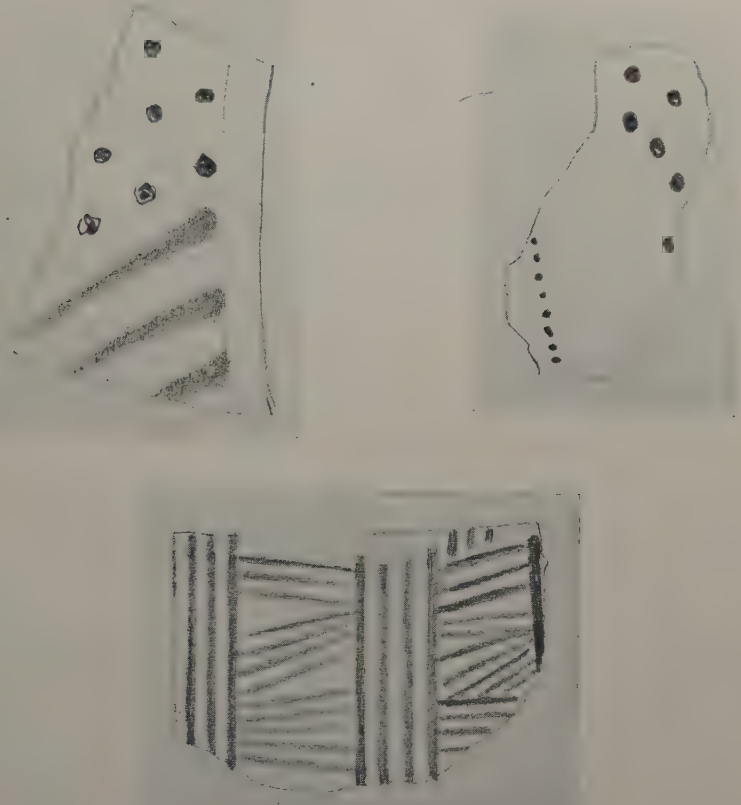
Notice of th ---  
ven in the Publ ---  
fore.

To be sold, a Trace of ---  
lying in North Kings ---  
Mumford, Jun. and well w ---  
Newport, about 60 Feet ---  
with a good Dwelling House ---  
Tenents, near the Prison Ho ---  
12 Years of Age, and a Slo ---  
Stocks. Enquire of James ---  
port, and know further t ---

To be sold to the hi ---  
the Prince's Head ---  
Land belonging to it ---  
Deep, the House abunt ---  
Rooms below, and ---  
Out-House fir for ---  
Pump in it Thos ---  
defit'd to meet at ---

(Advertisements from the issue of Feb. 22 are repeated)





Fragments of pottery unearthed at Charlestown, R. I., showing the crude attempts at artistic adornment by early Narragansett Indian potters. The upper ones were found in 1873 and the other one in 1921. Some more pretentious artistic efforts of the Indians are described in the R. I. H. S. COLLECTIONS for July, 1919, January, 1925, and October, 1926, but those more pretentious attempts were probably in most cases not the work of local Rhode Island Indians.

## Shipping Manuscript

It is thought by all concerned, that the A. M. had best be ordered to touch Galinus & Cape Mount,\* and if her cargo will there purchase 380. or 400. and be dispatched immediately to trade them and return—If such trade cannot be made there, to proceed without loss of time & without making any trade at the windward, to the Gold Coast, & there make the best trade that can be made, with as little delay as possible, & return—If capt. B. thinks from the information he gets at Trinidad, that the Cargo is not sufficient to put in 2. or 3000. dollars or other things as he may think proper—Enquire in whose name the property of the vessel stands, & what order or power has been given by the apparent owner, for disbursing the proceeds, among the real owners.

When the vessel with the Cargo arrives off Trinidad, she will stand in back of the Kacilda and set a blue flag with a white Ball, at the fore Top-Gallant mast-head—If she can come in, answer with same Signal, and haul it down and up three times, & then Keep it flying, if she cannot come in, after raising it three times, haul it down—The vessel off will do the same & wait your instructions. (R. I. H. S. M. XVII, 94.)

NOTE — This manuscript, which, from the paper and handwriting, would seem to date from about the period of the War of 1812, was recently presented to the Society by Mr. W. H. Peck, together with other papers relating to the shipping business of Nicholas Peck and Co., of Bristol, R. I.

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\*Cape Mount, a headland in Western Africa at 6° 46N.

## General Washington at Little Rest

WILLIAM DAVIS MILLER

In a sketch of the village of Little Rest during the latter part of the eighteenth century and the first few years of the nineteenth century, the late Rev. J. Hagadorn Wells<sup>1</sup> in describing the various old houses, wrote: "Another of these ancient structures stood well back on the northwest corner,<sup>2</sup> where it described a quadrant of a circle into the north road. In my early days it had reached a state of melancholy decrepitude, and in the late twenties of the last century the once noble, but then crazy old barrack, with all its ungracious vicinage, was swept clean . . . The revolutionary chapter of this old mansion's history contains the most of interest. At that time it was the residence of Col. Thomas Potter<sup>3</sup> . . . Colonel Potter entertained General Washington and his staff at his residence when he was on his way back to Newport after its evacuation by the British. No doubt the Colonel accompanied the General and participated in the brilliant reception which awaited him there by the American and French forces. Colonel Potter was put in command of the garrison in the city<sup>4</sup> . . . some

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<sup>1</sup>This sketch was published in *The Grist*, Rhode Island State College, Kingston, 1901, and was entitled *Ye Ancient Little Rest*. The name was changed in 1825 to Kingston.

<sup>2</sup>This is a reference to one of the four two storied gambrel roof houses which formerly stood one on each corner of the four corners by the village pump.

<sup>3</sup>Son of Ichabod and Deborah (Reynolds) Potter born 1738, died 1793.

<sup>4</sup>This is probably not correct. Thomas Potter was Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of the 3rd Regiment of the King's County Militia. Stiles states on hearsay that "the Mass. & Rh Isld. Militia were ordered to Newport: G. Lincoln has the Command of them." *The Literary Diary of Ezra Stiles*, Franklin Bowditch Dexter, ed., New York, 1901, vol. II, p. 521.



*Dr The United States to L<sup>d</sup> Colo<sup>s</sup> Tighman*

1781	1781	
March ...	To Cash paid Expenses of the Com <sup>rs</sup>	March ... By Cash of Mt Pleasant 6000
	monies in Cash to Newport	By do of Mt Pleasant 30000
	black to New Windsor. etc.	at Newport ...
	dollars	May ... By do of Mt Pleasant 20000
	Handbills ...	483
	Manchures ...	1034
	Getting a Horse out of Britts State ...	215
	L <sup>d</sup> & field ...	687
	Shoring Horse ...	34
	Harmonien ...	1048 1/2
	Harford Terry ...	84
	Bolton ...	540
	Shoring Horse ...	45
	Shoring Horse ...	214
	Salterys ...	720
	Shoring ...	143
	...	180

Pellets at Little Rest	2796	
Marriage at Story	200	
Commencement do	208	
Don (Woman & Mary)	75	
Wedding Lady	225	
Board at Newport	1450	
Bristol Story	240	
Providence Story	96	
Providence	040	
Dorchester	720	
Bolton	346	
Harford Story	54	
Harford	960	
Tammington	560	
Widow's Range	250	
Without—Carried over	+ 17791 $\frac{1}{2}$	
		Carried over ----
		<u>56,000</u>

Washington's Expenses in Rhode Island in 1781.

*From original manuscript in the Library of Congress.*

pleasant traditions have come down to us respecting this brief visit at Colonel Potter's. One of his daughters in her old age loved to tell the story of her being taken by the General on his knee and enjoying a childish talk with him. No doubt the child remembered more of it than did the General."

There have been so many "pleasant traditions" as to the whereabouts of Washington's lodgings on his various travels that the credentials of the applicant to such an honor must needs be carefully examined. Research has disclosed, however, that the claim of Little Rest can be truly allowed and that there is every reason to be sure that General Washington spent the night of March 5, 1781, in that village and that he probably was a guest of Colonel Potter. Contemporary evidence can be produced in substantiation of this assertion in the form of extracts from diaries of two South County residents, and, most important of all, from the expense account of the General's journey, kept by one of his aides, Lieutenant Colonel Trench Tilghman. This manuscript, preserved in the Library of Congress, through whose courtesy it is reproduced herewith, gives incidentally the itinerary of the journey and some of the inns patronized, but unfortunately does not state where the nights were spent. This can, however, be proven by the diaries mentioned and other contemporary references.

A Connecticut diary states that General Washington passed through Hartford on Sunday March 4, 1781<sup>5</sup> having possibly spent the previous night in Farmington. Where the party spent the night of the fourth is in doubt, but it is possible that it was in Norwich in view of the fact that there is reference to the town having been illuminated on that evening. The first Rhode Island town mentioned is

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<sup>5</sup>*The Literary Diary of Ezra Stiles*, vol. II, p. 519. The reference on page 522 is, however, incorrect in stating that General Washington arrived in Newport on March 5th. Contemporary accounts from Newport give the date as March 6th.



"Kinnions," the present day Kenyons. Here \$1900<sup>6</sup> was expended, probably for refreshment for man and beast, and also \$174 for two guides to conduct the party to "Potters at Little Rest" where they would appear to have arrived during the afternoon of March fifth. The amount spent in Little Rest is the largest item in the account, \$2796, a sum which, it is to be hoped, was not indicative of the lack of hospitality on the part of the residents, but rather that the stay made was longer and that necessary cost incidental to refurbishing and replacing equipment, etc., for the entry into Newport the next day, created added expense.

We have Hagadorn Wells' statement that General Washington stayed at Colonel Thomas Potter's. This is highly probable in view of the fact of the prominence and military rank which Potter held, but it cannot be definitely proven. "Potters at Little Rest" may mean Col. Potters, John Potter's Inn or Judge William Potter's famous house, the Abbey, further up the North Road. As General Howe is stated to have accompanied Washington on this journey, the solution would seem to be that Washington, and perhaps Howe and Tilghman, lodged at the Colonel's, while the remainder of the party were accommodated at John Potter's Inn. Save for Wells' reference, there seems, unfortunately, to be nothing to clarify this doubt.

The next day, Tuesday, March 6th, two reputable residents of the old South County made entries in their diaries

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<sup>6</sup>The sums in the expense accounts seem unreasonably large until the depressed condition of colonial currency is realized. In 1780 the General Assembly of Rhode Island established a scale of depreciation for bills of public credit. These tables expressed the value of one hundred Spanish milled dollars in paper currency and were promulgated about four times a year. With reference to the case point we find that in November 1780 one hundred Spanish milled dollars equalled seven thousand, four hundred paper dollars and in April 1781 one hundred Spanish milled dollars equalled seven thousand, nine hundred paper dollars. It might be of interest to add that in 1777 the ratio was 100 to 105 and that in May 1781 it was 100 to 16,000. *Bills of Credit and Paper Money of Rhode Island*, Elisha R. Potter, Providence, 1880, pp. 113.

to record George Washington's presence. The first, "Nailer Tom" (Thomas B. Hazard), notes with his usual succinct manner: "3/6 C. W. W. made Nails. went to Tower Hall. Generril Washinton went Newport this Day. the Town was Elluminated."<sup>7</sup> On leaving Little Rest, Washington made his way to the old South Ferry to cross to Conanicut and from there to Newport. We find from the account that each ferry toll was \$288. On his way he passed by the house of Jeffrey Watson, who lived near the ferry and had, in fact, at one time owned and operated it.<sup>8</sup> Watson noted that outstanding event by entering in his diary that "On March 6th General Washington Rode by our House with about Twenty Soldiers for a guard about ten o'clock."

It is regrettable that General Washington did not keep his diary at this date that we *might* have had his impression of his visit to Little Rest, and it is also regrettable that there appears to be no contemporary account of the entertainment afforded him by the village, of the "ellumination," of the possible guard of honor composed of a detail from the Kingston Reds, of the jollity at "Joe Runnells" Tavern and at the several other inns.

The only further reference to the General's visit comes down to us in the tale of "Major" Lunt, who boasted of the honor of having shaved the Father of his Country, which is so amusingly told in the Jonny Cake Papers.<sup>10</sup> Record, that cruel despoiler of traditional glory, deprives Lunt of his rank and enters him as private and sergeant. On February 7, 1834, Elisha Reynolds Potter, son of Col. Potter, then a member of Congress, wrote to his son Elisha that "In the time of the revolution Mr. Lunt watched a

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<sup>7</sup>*Nailer Tom's Diary*, Thomas B. Hazard. Boston, 1930, p. 20.

<sup>8</sup>*Rhode Island Ferries*, Anna Augusta and Charles V. Chapin, Providence, 1925, pp. 264 et seq.

<sup>9</sup>*Narragansett Friend's Meeting*, Caroline Hazard, Boston, 1899, p. 167.

<sup>10</sup>*The Jonny Cake Papers of "Shepard Tomi,"* Thomas Robinson Hazard, Boston, 1851.

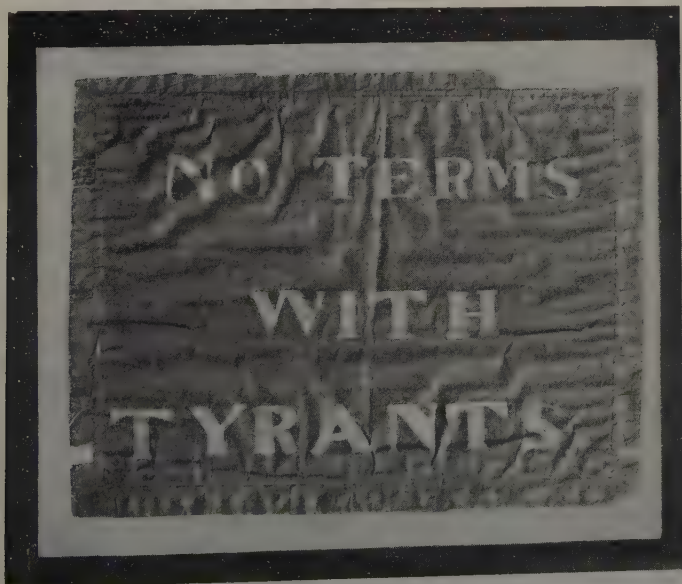
beacon that we had on the hill to light when the English landed on our shores and had a gun that he was blowed up with to fire for the same purpose. I want you to see him and git him to make application for a pension . . .”<sup>11</sup>

So the “pleasant tradition” of George Washington’s stay in Little Rest happily becomes an historical fact, a genuine satisfaction that occurs but occasionally in the work of historical research where the glamour surrounding the past is so often rudely dispelled.

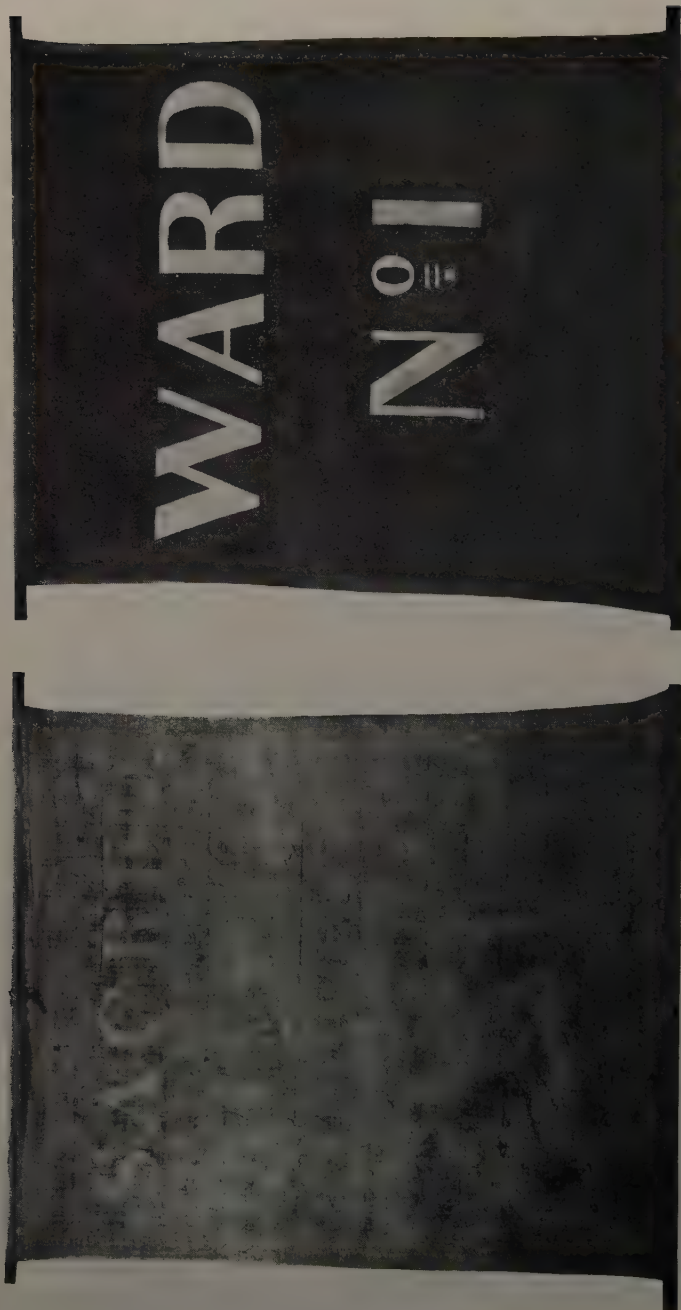
<sup>11</sup>From the Potter Papers. The pension was granted and is recorded in the pension list published in 1835.

## Dorr War Flags

The Rhode Island Historical Society museum contains a collection of nine Dorr War banners, which were carried in 1842. Illustrations of the interesting political banners are shown in this issue of the *COLLECTIONS*.



(The reverse side carried no design)

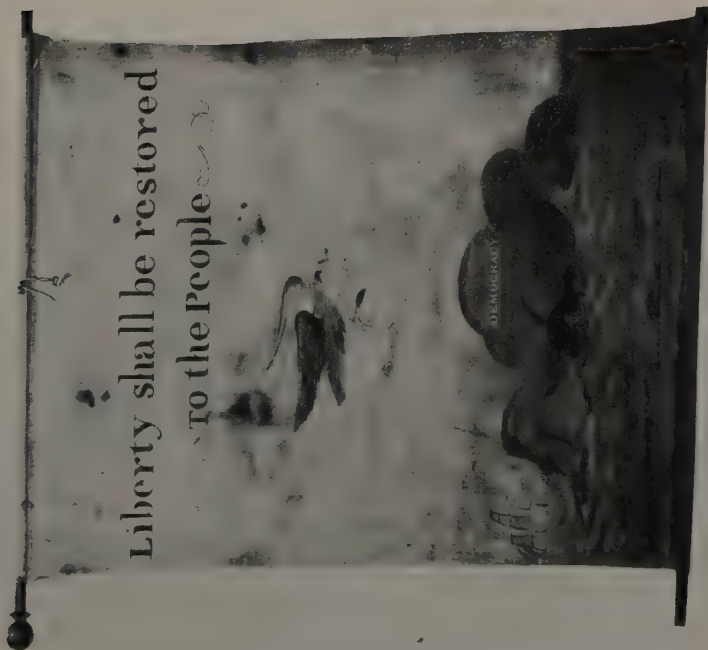


(Reverse)

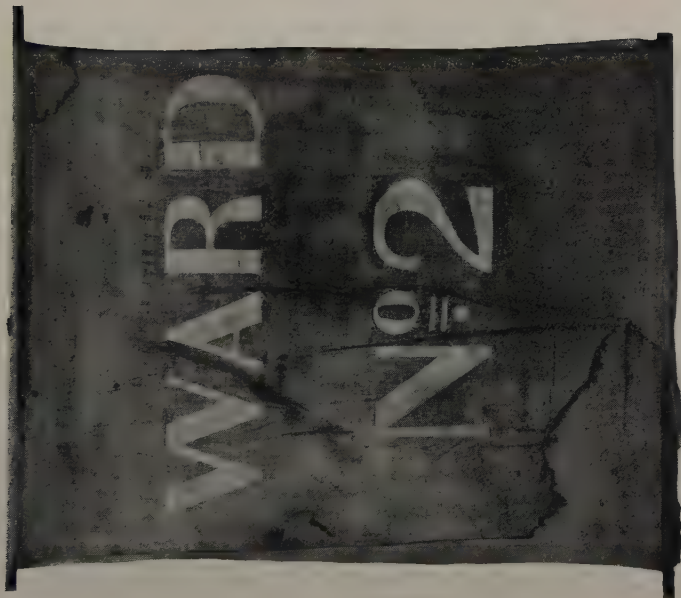
FIRST WARD BANNER

The Inscription Reads: "Sacred to the Memory of  
the Hon. J. Cilley."

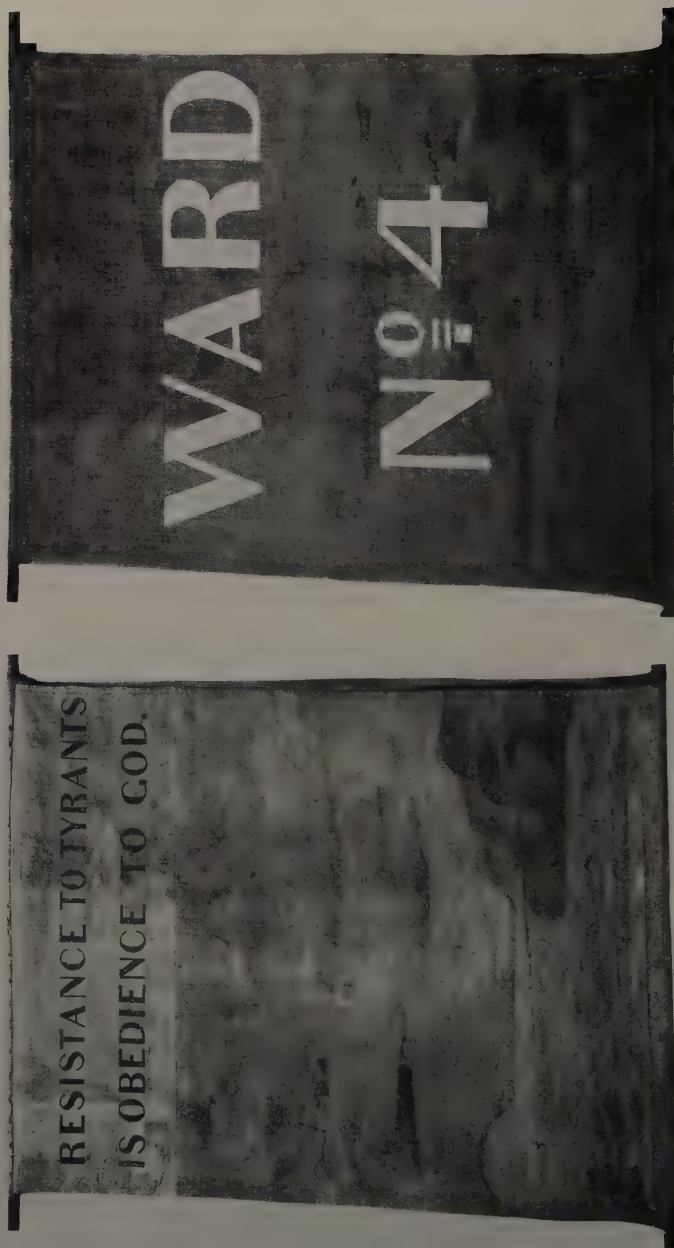




SECOND WARD BANNER



(Reverse)

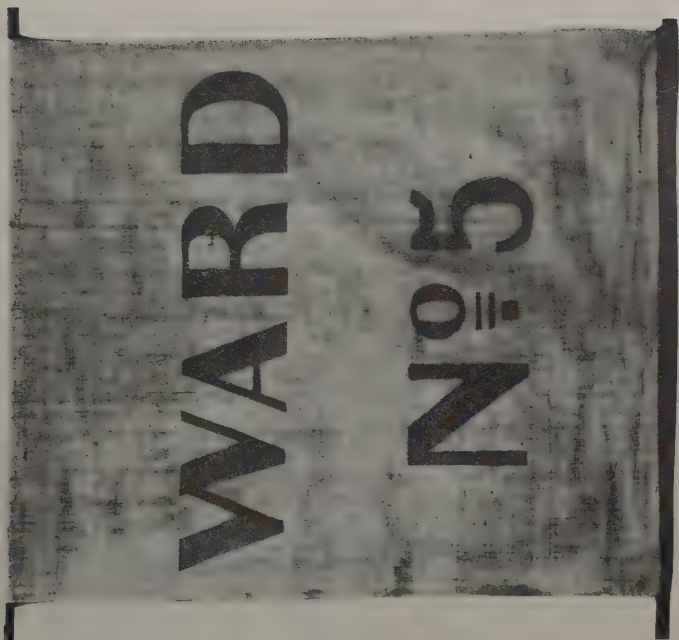


FOURTH WARD BANNER

(Reverse)



FIFTH WARD BANNER



(Reverse)

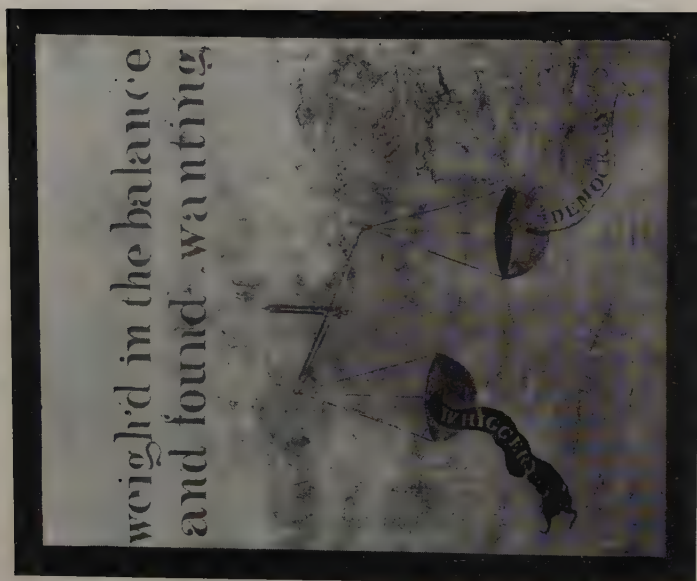


SIXTH WARD BANNER

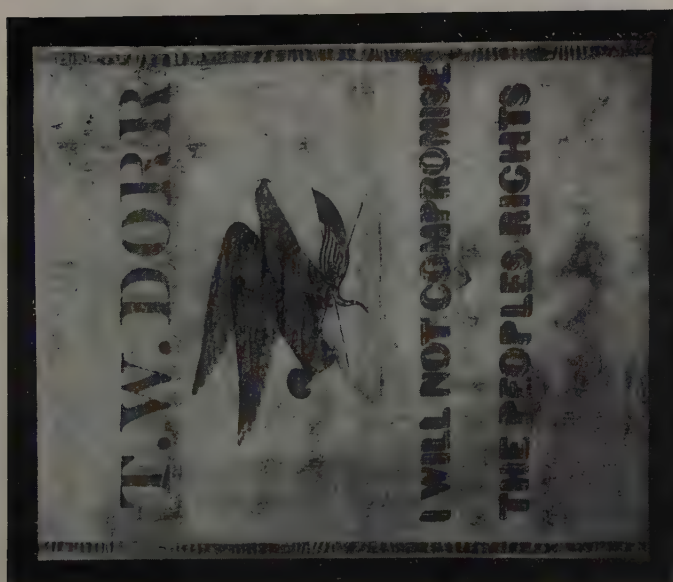


(Reverse)

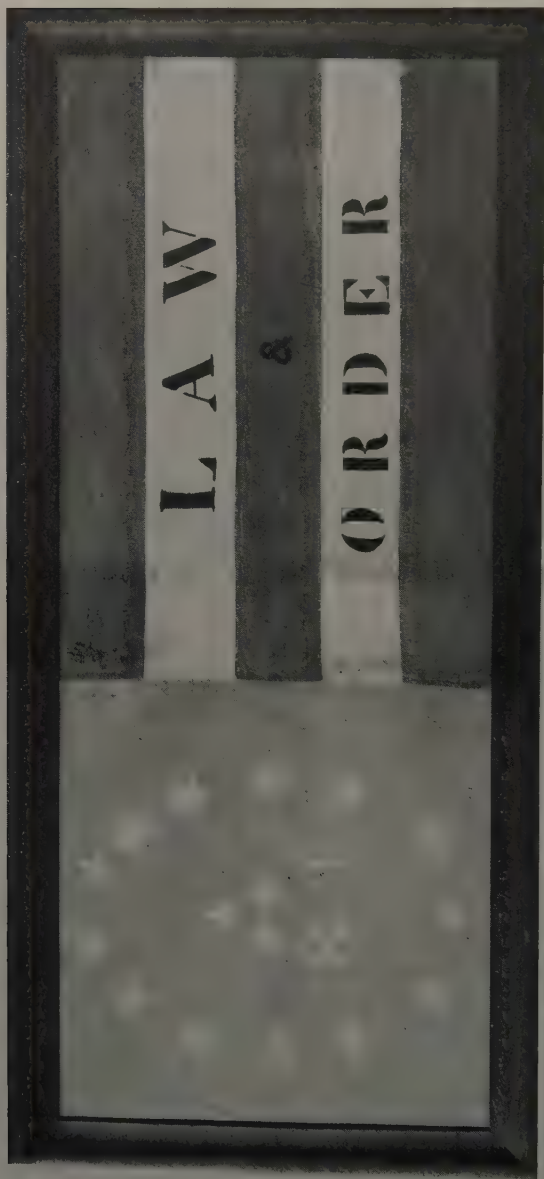




(The reverse side carried no design)



(The reverse side carried no design)



DORR WAR BANNER

# Rhode Island Historical Society

## Treasurer's Report

### INCOME ACCOUNT FOR YEAR 1931

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#### RECEIPTS

Annual Dues .....	\$2,770.00
Dividends and Interest.....	5,401.44
Rental of Rooms.....	105.00
State Appropriations .....	1,500.00
	<hr/>
	\$9,776.44

#### EXPENDITURES

Binding .....	\$ 577.40
Books .....	706.97
Electric Light and Gas.....	46.17
Exhibitions .....	159.41
Expense .....	248.70
Grounds and Building.....	87.41
Heating .....	700.00
Newspaper .....	32.35
Publications .....	1,041.04
Salaries .....	5,580.00
Supplies .....	330.57
Telephone .....	63.95
Water .....	8.00
	<hr/>
	\$9,581.97
Surplus Income Account.....	194.47
	<hr/>
	\$9,776.44

## STATEMENT OF CONDITION, DECEMBER 31, 1931

ASSETS	
Grounds and Building .....	\$ 25,000.00
Investments:	

## BONDS

\$4,000. Cedars Rapids Mfg. & Power Co., 5s, 1953 .....	\$3,228.88
3,000. Central Mfg. District.....	3,000.00
3,000. Cleveland Elec. Illum. Co., 5s, 1939 .....	2,565.42
1,000. Commonwealth Edison Co., 5s, 1943 .....	965.25
4,000. Dominion of Canada, 5s, 1952 .....	4,003.91
1,000. Western Electric Co., 5s, 1944 .....	998.17
4,000. 61 Broadway Building, 1st Mtge., 5½s, 1950 .....	4,000.00
4,000. Minnesota P. & Lt. Co., 1st, 5s, 1955 .....	3,930.00
4,000. Monongahela Valley Traction Co., 1st 5s, 1942.....	3,685.00
2,000. Ohio Pwr. Co., 1st and Ref. 5s, 1952 .....	1,974.00
2,000. Narragansett Co., 5s, 1947.....	1,980.00
2,000. Shell Union Oil Corp., 5s, 1947.....	1,979.00
2,000. Koppers Gas & Coke Co., 5s, 1947.....	1,962.50
1,000. Indianapolis Power & Lt. 1st, 5s, 1957 .....	994.50
1,000. Texas Power & Lt. 1st Ref. 5s, 1956 .....	1,021.25
1,000. Pennsylvania R. R. Deb. 4½s, 1970 .....	922.50

## STOCKS

54 shs. New York Central Railroad Co.....	\$3,766.47
125 shs. Pennsylvania Railroad Co.....	7,638.35
30 shs. Lehigh Valley Railroad Co. ....	2,112.50
7 shs. Lehigh Valley Coal Sales Co. ....	235.39
40 shs. Milwaukee Elec. Ry. & Lgt. Co., Pfd.	3,900.00
64 shs. American Telephone & Telegraph Co.	5,960.05
350 shs. Providence Gas Co. ....	5,755.68
15 shs. Providence National Bank	} ..... 1,800.00
30 shs. Merchants' National Bank Bldg. }	
45 shs. Blackstone Canal National Bank .....	1,050.00
52 shs. Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Ry. Co., Com. ....	6,247.85
20 shs. American Power & Light .....	1,696.50
30 shs. Standard Gas & Electric 4s, Pfd.....	1,906.50
35 shs. Public Service of N. J. 5s, Pfd.....	3,327.63
10 shs. Public Service of N. J. 5s, Cum. Pfd...	990.00
10 shs. Electric Bond and Share 5s, Pfd.....	922.00
Cash on hand .....	84,519.30
	4,539.57
	<u>\$114,058.87</u>



## LIABILITIES

Equipment Fund .....	\$ 25,000.00
Permanent Endowment Fund:	
Samuel M. Noyes .....	\$12,000.00
Henry J. Steere .....	10,000.00
James H. Bugbee .....	6,000.00
Charles H. Smith .....	5,000.00
George L. Shepley .....	5,000.00
Charles W. Parsons .....	4,000.00
Edwin P. Anthony .....	4,000.00
William H. Potter .....	3,000.00
Esek A. Jillson .....	2,000.00
John Wilson Smith .....	1,000.00
William G. Weld .....	1,000.00
Charles C. Hoskins .....	1,000.00
Charles H. Atwood .....	1,000.00
John F. Street .....	1,000.00
Franklin Lyceum Memorial .....	734.52
	<hr/>
	56,734.52
Publication Fund:	
Robert P. Brown .....	\$ 2,000.00
Ira P. Peck .....	1,000.00
William Gammell .....	1,000.00
Albert J. Jones .....	1,000.00
William Ely .....	1,000.00
Julia Bullock .....	500.00
Charles H. Smith .....	100.00
	<hr/>
	6,600.00
Book Fund .....	3,012.41
Life Membership .....	5,550.00
Reserve Fund .....	1,015.37
Revolving Publication Fund .....	606.27
Surplus .....	13,766.62
Surplus Income Account .....	1,773.68
	<hr/>
	\$114,058.87

Respectfully submitted,

G. A. HARRINGTON,  
Treasurer.

## PRINCIPAL ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1931

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 RECEIPTS

Edwin P. Anthony.....	\$4,000.00
John F. Street.....	1,000.00
Reserve Fund .....	402.10
Revolving Publication Fund.....	69.00
	<hr/>
	\$5,471.10
Balance January 1, 1931.....	1,650.54
	<hr/>
	\$7,121.64

## PAYMENTS

Electric Bond and Share, \$5.00 Pfd., 10 shares.....	\$ 922.00
Pennsylvania Railroad Deb. 4½s, 1970.....	922.50
Public Service Corp. of N. J., 10 shares.....	990.00
Texas Light & Power 1st Ref. 5s, 1956.....	1,021.25
Reserve .....	500.00
	<hr/>
	\$4,355.75
Balance December 30, 1931.....	2,765.89
	<hr/>
	\$7,121.64



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PROVIDENCE